THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The amount of fund released to the State of Orissa during 2004-05 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is Rs. 178.75 crore. 364 number of road works for a length of 752.52 kms. have been completed in the State during 2004-05. Upto Phase-III, 1722 number of road works have been cleared by the Ministry of Rural Development, out of which 1401 road works have been completed. The Ministry of Rural Development has put in place On-Line Management, Monitoring and Accounting System (OMMAS) for monitoring the programme.

BPL Census

881. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria on the basis of which BPL census is conducted;

(b) whether the Government consider the criteria to be foolproof; and

(c) if not, what steps have been taken to revise the existing criteria of identifying the BPL population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development provides assistance to the States and Union Territories to conduct the BPL Census after every five years coinciding with the Five Year Plan. The first BPL Census was conducted for the 8th Plan in 1992 and for the 9th Five Year Plan, the BPL Census 1997 was conducted. The BPL Census 1992 and BPL Census 1997 which were based on Income and Expenditure approach respectively became subject to criticism because of the exclusion criteria. For BPL Census 2002, the Ministry set up an Expert Group comprising of Senior Bureaucrats, Academicians, Experts and States representatives. After detailed deliberations, the Expert Group recommended a 'Score Based Ranking' of each household indicating their quality of life for the BPL Census 2002. For this purpose, 13 socio-economic indicators including size of land holding, type of house, availability of clothes, food security, sanitation, literacy, means of livelihood and indebtedness etc. have been prescribed. The present methodology to identify BPL families has been considered to be an improvement over the previous methodologies as the information collected on various parameters can be physically verified.